

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS



FROM SUPERVISOR KAUFFMAN

TOWN MEETING OCTOBER 27th!

Look for more information on the back of this newsletter

Dear Neighbor:

The theme of this year's town meeting is *Toward a Sustainable Community*. Our speakers will cover a range of topics from environmental stewardship to maintaining a healthy local economy. In keeping with our national challenges, we've included a presentation on maintaining a safe and caring community.

In many respects, Lee District has been a leader in creating a sustainable community. We have secured new parkland in the fastest growing part of our district. Also, to the extent the county legally can, we have taken on the challenge of matching land use with school and road infrastructure.

This year, we "down planned" the largest remaining undeveloped part of Lee District. At my request, community leaders are also reviewing whether the current development plan language for the Telegraph Road corridor makes sense in light of the State's inability to provide needed road improvements.

All this is taking place as we work to find the best catalyst for redeveloping Richmond Highway and Central Springfield. The director of the regional Coalition for Smarter Growth will join us at the town meeting and discuss how revitalization is *Smart Growth*.

Challenging times have always brought out the best in Lee District. I look forward to seeing you at the town meeting and welcome your questions and comments.

Sincerely,



We dedicate this newsletter to the many Lee District friends and families who were touched by the tragic events of September 11th.

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Lines of Business Review Begun for FY2003 County Budget

Last May, after a difficult juggling act to fund our schools, I called on the Fairfax County School Board to join the Board of Supervisors in a line of business review for its budget.

Five years ago in a tight economy, the County analyzed every service it offers in order to cut redundancy and waste and free up more than 50 percent of its General Fund to Fairfax County Public Schools. This year, the County Board will again be taking a line of business approach to its budget. Even before the tragic events of September 11, the Board was concerned about the impact of the economic slowdown on the County's budget. Now, it's even more important that we leverage our general fund revenues to be able to support our schools, seniors, and maintain our Fairfax County quality of life.

I look forward to working with the School Board to make our FY 2003 budget process a positive initiative that helps us to streamline both our organizations. We need to leave organizational stovepipes behind, find a way to consolidate common maintenance and support activities, and focus on the adults and children we both serve.



Concert-goers enjoying music at Lee District Park's popular Wednesday night concert series. The series was a great success and we're looking forward to next summer!

Metro Parking Expands at Franconia-Springfield

Just in time to be an early holiday present for area commuters, we will begin expanding the existing parking structure at the Franconia-Springfield station by 1,000 spaces.

Free Bus Fares in I-95 Corridor

A Bus Fare Buydown program has funded free bus routes on the I-95 corridor to encourage motorists to try transit instead of driving through the Springfield Mixing Bowl. The free fares should remain in effect through June 2002. The free bus routes are:

Metrobus 18 R/S

TAGS S80, S81, S82

Fairfax Connector 109, 110, 111, 202, 203, 204, 301, 303, 304, 305, and 311.

In addition to the free fares, a special weekly bus/rail is being offered at a significant discount. Normally \$30, the pass has been reduced to \$20 when you present a transfer from the Fairfax Connector or Metrobus. This discount pass goes on sale every Wednesday from 6- 9:30 AM in the Franconia-Springfield Metrorail Station.

For more information, bus route maps, or schedules, call the Fairfax Connector Information Center at 703-339-7200, (TTY 703-339- 1608). This information is also available on the web at www.Fairfaxconnector.com and at the Connector Store at Springfield Mall.

TAGS Shuttle Offers Expanded Service

On Monday, July 23, 2001 the Transportation Association of Greater Springfield expanded its circulator bus service. The service links the Joe Alexander Transportation Center off the Franconia/Springfield Parkway with central Springfield (routes S80/81) and now with the new INOVA Healthplex and the Metro Park office park (S82).

TAGS is a non-profit, public/private, transportation management association. It is an important component of the transportation improvements serving the Springfield area. TAGS service is available at 15-minute intervals Monday through Friday. For more information call 703-971-7727, or visit their web site at www.WMATA.com.

Space limits the amount of information we can print in this newsletter. If you would like more information about any of these stories please contact my office at (703) 971-6262.

Lee District Wins With 2001 School Bond Referendum

On November 6, you will have the opportunity to vote on a \$378 million school bond referendum. More than \$56 million of that bond will be allocated to Lee District schools. Here are some highlights of the referendum:

New Island Creek Elementary School: \$17.4 million of the bond is allocated for construction of a new elementary school in the Island Creek area, expected to open in 2003. This new elementary school should alleviate overcrowding at Lane and Franconia elementary schools.

Groveton Elementary School will receive \$11.8 million to renovate its outdated "open classroom" layout and **Hayfield and Lee High Schools** will get \$21 million in renovation funds. An addition \$1 million will go to planning efforts for the **Edison High School** renovation. Finally, the bond allocates \$2 million for a new **South County High School** at the Lorton Site which will take pressure off of Hayfield Secondary.



Robert E. Lee High School will receive additional renovation funding from the upcoming school bond.

SPRINGFIELD CULTURAL CENTER NEWS

If you visited the Franconia Governmental Center this summer, you probably saw the art display that brightened the building's utilitarian walls. This display, showcasing works by local artists, was part of the Springfield Cultural Center organization's 'Mobile Museum' project. Formed about a year and a half ago to bring a cultural and arts center to the Springfield area, the group plans to make its Mobile Museum available to the community.

Members of the Springfield Cultural Center organization are working closely with C-SPARC to make the arts an integral part of Springfield's revitalization. You can find out more about the Center and its plans at www.springfieldculturalcenter.org.



Veterans Bob Heittman (Lee District Transportation Commissioner and retired Air Force) with Tom Kauffman (retired Marine Corps) and Supervisor Dana Kauffman show off the plaques for the new Amherst Street Bridge Veterans Memorial.

SPRINGFIELD REVITALIZATION UPDATE

In mid-September, C-SPARC (Central Springfield Revitalization Council) unveiled its vision for the Springfield revitalization area. For the past year, C-SPARC has headed a community task force that examined the County's Comprehensive Plan (the legal document that guides land use in the County). The Central Springfield business district, like other older commercial areas in the County, has been affected by changing demographics and traffic patterns, as well as changing lifestyles and needs.

This new plan is in draft form and dovetails with our County's efforts to upgrade our aging commercial centers. It supports the national movement toward pedestrian-scaled town centers. All over the country, folks are voting with their wallets and patronizing town centers that mesh the private sector, with its retail, office, and housing, with a public sector component such as a library or cultural center. For this approach to be successful here, it will be important to work with the local businesses that make Springfield unique. A cookie-cutter approach won't work.

The task force expects to wrap up its work this fall and send its revised Comprehensive Plan to the Lee District Land Use Committee and the ultimately to the Board of Supervisors. I encourage all of you who live, shop, and drive through Central Springfield to review the new plan and let the task force know your thoughts. You can reach Bob Gray, the task force chair, at 703-644-4466. Copies of the draft plan are available from Richard Tucker in the Department of Housing and Community Development at 703-246-5052.